

HOUSE RESOLUTION 434

By Ford

A RESOLUTION to honor the Harvey family on seventy years in gospel music.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should pay tribute to those gifted, spiritual citizens who lift up hearts and souls through the power of gospel music; and

WHEREAS, the Harvey family is composed of such talented singers and musicians who have spread God's love and His message through gospel music for the past seventy years; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1920's, John Harvey started singing in his home church choir at Lick Creek Christian Church near Piney Flats; he was accompanied by his twelve brothers and sisters, Roscoe, Roy, John, Tessie, Ira, Dewey, Lennie, Ed, Grace, Mary, Raymond, and Paul, and occasionally, their mother; and

WHEREAS, these Harvey Singers performed together as a choir until 1930; and

WHEREAS, when John Harvey began leading the choir at Watauga Christian Church, he met Irene Lacy, who played the pump organ there; John and Irene fell in love and married, and to this blessed union was born four children: Dexter, Theresa, Kenneth, and Peggy; and

WHEREAS, in 1940, a new Harvey family singing group was formed, with John Harvey, his nephews, L.G. Shell and Tommy Joe Andrews, and his son, Dexter, on board; their first engagement was on Christmas Night 1940 at Watauga Christian Church, and the first song they performed there was "Give the World a Smile"; and

WHEREAS, after discovering they could make a recording of their music for \$3.25, Dexter Harvey collected enough scrap metal to pay for the session, and the Harvey family traveled to Elizabethton for the first of many recording sessions together; they recorded "I Love My Savior, Too" backed with "The Old Gospel Ship"; and

WHEREAS, this original lineup stayed in place until 1945, when L.G. left for law school and was replaced by Theresa and Peggy; in 1952, Tommy Joe left the group to join the Army and was replaced by Theresa's husband, Jimmy Luchini; and

WHEREAS, the Harvey family experienced a great loss, both personally and professionally, in 1971 when the patriarch of the family, John Harvey, passed away at the age of 82; his love for God and gospel music were constants throughout his long and bountiful life, and he was still singing and recording with the family at the time of his death; and

WHEREAS, the Harvey family has known great sadness over the years, as they have lost family and group members: Jimmy Luchini, who sang with the group for twenty-seven years, passed away in 1980 and Dexter Harvey, a 44-year veteran of the group, went to his reward in 1984; and

WHEREAS, the present-day line-up includes Tommy Joe Andrews, Theresa Harvey Whiddon, her husband Buddy Whiddon, Peggy Harvey Street, Tom Holland, Lynn Holland, and Ray Odom; and

WHEREAS, younger brother Kenneth Harvey is a talented singer and guitarist, and Peggy's son, Joseph Street, and Theresa's granddaughter, Katie Luchini, sometimes sing with the group; and

WHEREAS, for many years on Christmas Night, the Harvey family has gathered at the Watauga Christian Church to sing "Give the World a Smile," just as the original group first performed this classic in 1940; and

WHEREAS, the older Harveys are confident that the younger generation will carry on the family's musical tradition with pride and dignity; and

WHEREAS, the Harvey family prays that they will be able to continue singing together for many more years to come, and they are truly appreciative of the audiences who have inspired them to greater heights and enriched their lives during the past seventy years; and

WHEREAS, most of all, the Harveys are grateful to God for allowing them the privilege of spreading His word through the beautiful sounds of their music; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the members

of the Harvey family on seventy outstanding years of performing gospel music for the good people of Northeast Tennessee, thank them for their unremitting service to God and humanity through their singing, and wish them much continued success and happiness for many years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.